

7. (Amended) An ion source as claimed in Claim 1, in which the exit aperture comprises a frusto-conical hole formed within a block defining the interface chamber, the exit aperture further comprising a correspondingly frusto-conical insert member, the insert member having a bore therethrough to permit passage of sample ions and being coaxially aligned with the frusto-conical hole in the block.

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Please cancel Claim 9 without prejudice.